

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q80581

Sadato AKAHORI

Allowed: April 3, 2009

Appln. No.: 10/806,476

Group Art Unit: 2624

Confirmation No.: 1699

Examiner: Edward PARK

Filed: March 23, 2004

For: APPARATUS, PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM FOR LEARNING DATA TO FORM A SELF-ORGANIZING MAP COMPRISED OF REFERENCE VECTORS CORRESPONDING TO FEATURES OF AN IMAGE AND USED FOR DETERMINING OBJECTS IN AN IMAGE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

ATTN: MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REMARKS

Applicant offers the following comments in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth on pages 3-6 of the Notice of Allowability dated April 3, 2009. The Reasons for Allowance are based on certain limited elements while unnecessarily characterizing the prior art as teaching certain remaining claim elements. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable based on their collective recitations and should not be premised merely on the individual elements stated by the Examiner.

Patent Office personnel are requested to note that the present submission does not adversely affect the patent term adjustment accrued by the Applicant to date. As emphasized in

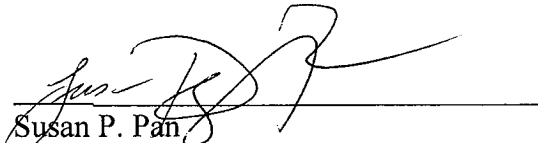
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
U.S. Application No.: 10/806,476

Attorney Docket No.: Q80581

the “Clarification of 37 C.F.R. §1.704(c)(10) – Reduction of Patent Term Adjustment for Certain Types of Papers Filed After a Notice of Allowance Has Been Mailed,” 1247OG111 (6/26/01), “a response to the examiner’s reasons for allowance” is an example of a paper that does “not cause substantial interference and delay in the patent issue process” and is “not considered a ‘failure to engage in reasonable efforts’ to conclude processing or examination of the application.”

Therefore, the Applicant remains entitled to the full patent term adjustment set forth on page 3 of the Notice of Allowance dated April 3, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 28, 2009